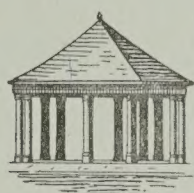


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Urban District of Whittlesey

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1955.

TO: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
 WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,


I submit herewith my Annual Report for the year 1955 together with the Report of the Sanitary Inspector. It is a great pleasure to record that Mr Bamford has proved a most conscientious and able colleague and has carried out the work of the Department in an entirely satisfactory manner.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

D. C. LOGAN.

Medical Officer of Health.



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OFFICERS OF THE WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health:

D.C.Logan, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

W.Scott, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
From 1.1.55. to 31.3.55.

D.A.Bamford, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
From 1.6.55. to 31.12.55.

Meat Inspector:

J.H.Poles, M.R.C.V.S.
From 1.1.55. to 30.6.55.

D.A.Bamford, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
From 1.7.55. to 31.12.55.

OFFICES OF THE WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
6, Delph Street,
Whittlesey.

Telephone No. Whittlesey 2312-3

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	23, 362
Number of Inhabitated Houses.	2, 884
Rateable Value (at 31.12.55.)	£34, 882
Product of ld. rate (at 31.3.55.)	£136. 3s. 11d.
Population (Registrar General's figures).	8, 710

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	69	76	145
Illegitimate.	5	1	6
	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>
Total:	74	77	151
	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>

Live Birth Rate -

Whittlesey Urban District - per 1,000 estimated population 17.33
Adjusted Live Birth Rate - per 1,000 estimated population 17.51
England and Wales. - per 1,000 estimated population 15.0

STILLBIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	1	-	1
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>
Total :	1	-	1
	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>

Stillbirth Rate -

Whittlesey Urban District - per 1,000 live and still births 6.58
England and Wales - per 1,000 live and still births 23.1

For the second year in succession the stillbirth rate has been well under the rate for England and Wales as a whole.

DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	2	1	3
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>
Total:	2	1	3
	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>

Infant Mortality Rate -

Whittlesey Urban District - per 1,000 Live Births 19.87
England and Wales - per 1,000 Live Births 24.9

Although not quite so low as last year the Infant Mortality rate for Whittlesey (19.87) is well under that for England and Wales (24.9) as a whole. This is the seventh consecutive year that this happy state of affairs has occurred. All the deaths have taken place in the first week.

Neo Natal Death Rate -

Whittlesey Urban District - per 1,000 Live Births. 19.87
England and Wales. - per 1,000 Live Births. 17.3

Three deaths occurred in this group and were caused by extreme prematurity and congenital deformity.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

As I stated in my report for 1954 much research work is being carried out in connection with immunisation against certain diseases. During the last few years immunisation has been carried out at increasingly younger ages and this trend continues; the ultimate aim being to introduce protective measures at the earliest time when an adequate response will be obtained because the death rate is highest in the youngest infants in such diseases as whooping cough, tuberculosis and diphtheria.

At present protection against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, tuberculosis and smallpox is readily available and a start has been made with immunisation against poliomyelitis but only a very limited number of children have so far received injections.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during 1955 :-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Measles.	176	192	368
Pneumonia.	23	19	42
Whooping Cough.	21	16	37
Scarlet Fever.	12	17	29
Tuberculosis (Pul.)	3	3	6
Tuberculosis (Non-pul.)	1	1	2
Erysipelas.	2	2	4
Infective Jaundice.	2	1	3
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	1	1
			<hr/>
			492
			<hr/>
Total:			

DEATHS (ALL CAUSES)

Male 43 Female 44 Total 87

Death Rate -

Whittlesey Urban District - per 1,000 estimated population	10.0
Adjusted Death Rate - per 1,000 estimated population	10.1
England and Wales - per 1,000 estimated population	11.7

Causes of Deaths in the Whittlesey Urban District, as supplied
by the Registrar General for 1955 :-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory.	-	-
Tuberculosis, other.	-	-
Syphilitic disease.	-	-
Diphtheria.	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	-
Meningococcal infections.	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis.	-	-
Measles.	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	3	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	5	4
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	1	2
Diabetes.	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	7	7
Coronary disease , angina.	7	4
Hypertension with heart disease.	1	-
Other heart disease.	8	15
Other circulatory disease.	1	1
Influenza.	-	-
Pneumonia.	1	2
Bronchitis.	2	-
Other disease of respiratory system.	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis.	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-
Congenital malformations.	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	3	2
Motor vehicle accidents.	-	-
All other accidents.	-	2
Suicide.	2	-
Homicide and operations of war.	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total :	43	44
	<hr/>	<hr/>

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

During the year 12 samples of drinking water were submitted for bacteriological examination. 10 samples were classed as satisfactory. One unsatisfactory sample was taken from a pump and arrangements have been made to lay on a mains supply. The other unsatisfactory sample was rechecked and found to be satisfactory.

Two samples of drinking water were submitted for chemical analysis and both were classed as satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Town's water is purchased from Peterborough Corporation.

Total yearly consumption... 97,288,000 gallons.

Average daily consumption. 266,542 gallons.

Estimated number of houses supplied with Town Water either direct to house or by means of stand pipes 2,667.

Further progress has been made in extending the water mains throughout the district. A new main of approximately 1,200 yards was laid in Coldharbour Drove and one of approximately 990 yards was laid in Quakers Drove. Excavations were made for Turf Fen Drove water main.

There are still a large number of houses in the district without an internal supply of water. In many cases several houses share one standpipe and this is often situated some distance from the house.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Work was finally completed on the Eastrea and Coates sewers making it possible to drain 368 houses. Of these houses 100 are Council owned and 268 are privately owned.

In the town there are still many houses in good structural condition which have pail closets although water supply and sewer are readily available. It is to be regretted that existing legislation does not allow the Council to require the conversion of a pail closet to a water closet unless the Council is prepared to pay half the cost of the conversion.

Test baiting of sewers for rats was carried out and resulted in no takes.

NIGHTSOIL COLLECTION.

The Council undertake the emptying of pails, vaults and cesspools from properties where no sewer is available. Condemned properties are included in this scheme even where a sewer is available.

The work is let by Contract on an annual basis.

NIGHTSOIL COLLECTION. (continued).

The Contractor for the period from 1st April 1955 to the end of the year has not given a very satisfactory service. Complaints were received throughout the period relating to spillage, pails not being emptied, the lapse of several weeks between an emptying order and the work being completed, and the practice of emptying pails during the period when children go to or come from school.

The Council considered carrying out this work by direct labour but it was estimated that no financial saving would be made and there would be great difficulty in obtaining suitable labour in this area.

A new Contract Document has been drawn up which should give more control over the methods and time of collections.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Prior to March the refuse was collected by one 10 cu.yd. lorry staffed by a driver and four loaders. In March the Council purchased a 16/18 cu.yd. Shelvoke & Drewry Freighter. A driver and two loaders from the crew of the old lorry manned this vehicle, leaving a driver and one loader on the old vehicle.

As far as possible the town area had a weekly collection, the villages of Eastrea and Coates a fortnightly collection and parts of Pondersbridge, Blackbush, Eldernell and Turves had a monthly collection.

The smallness of the staff was such that if one man was absent through holiday or illness, it meant that only one lorry could be operated. This covered a period of ten weeks for holidays alone.

The Council called for a report on the refuse collection scheme and decided to extend this service to dwellings in outside areas which were reached by well surfaced roads. An additional loader was engaged for the Shelvoke & Drewry Freighter.

The Town and other compact areas (Coates and Eastrea) are collected weekly, all other areas are collected once in three weeks as far as possible.

The new scheme did not commence until the end of the year.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on the New Road site. No nuisance or complaints have arisen, White metal and scrap iron are salvaged by the tip attendant, the amount salvaged during the year was £87.0s.10d.

The tip was poison baited for rats with a good measure of success.

KEEPING OF ANIMALS.

Only one complaint was made of nuisance from animals. The premises were visited several times but no nuisance was found.

REMOVAL OF OFFENSIVE MATTER.

One offensive heap of manure was reported and was dealt with.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The two registered common lodging houses are well maintained and were visited regularly during the year. One of these was authorised to accommodate 3 more lodgers in an extra room.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

Ten single sites are registered and are satisfactory. Of the four camps the one in Cheshire's Yard has received permission under the Town and Country Planning Acts. The site has now all modern type caravans.

The other sites are of a poor standard and many complaints have been investigated and dealt with where necessary.

Two caravans were evicted by the site owner from one site and placed on a private road. Legal action was taken against the occupier of one which remained, for stationing a moveable dwelling on an unlicensed site, a fine of £2 was imposed.

INSPECTIONS.

The following table summarises the inspections made in 1955.

	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Informal Notices.</u>	<u>Statutory Notices.</u>
Cesspool, pail and vault work.	23	-	-
Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses.	18	2	-
Slaughterhouses and Butcher's Shops.	390	-	-
Food Shops.	17	-	-
Restaurants.	6	-	-
Verminous and Filthy Premises.	12	3	-
Housing.	29	16	-
Nuisances.	7	2	-
Rats and Mice.	34	-	-
Refuse Collection and Disposal.	37	-	1
Caravan Sites.	43	3	1

Of the 26 informal notices served 19 were complied with. Of the 2 statutory notices served one was complied with, and one served during 1954 was also complied with.

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION.

No infestation of bed bugs was reported.

Five infestations of fleas were investigated and the premises treated.

One house was disinfected.

HOUSING.

Number of houses erected during 1955 :-

By Local Authority	26
By Private Enterprise	45

71
==

33 applications were received for Improvement Grants, 28 of which were approved and received grants.

The Council submitted to the Minister of Housing & Local Government their proposals for the Slum Clearance Scheme. It is proposed to deal with 116 sub-standard houses in a period of 15 years. Of these 116 houses 66 are already subject to demolition or clearance orders issued during 1938.

The proposal is being reconsidered with a view to reducing the period for dealing with these houses.

The general standard of the houses in the district is low and there is much work to be done. The greatest problem in preparing slum clearance schemes is that of finding suitable sites in or near to the town for re-housing elderly persons who would be displaced.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

Inspections made (under the Factories Act) for 1954.

Premises	No. on Register.	Inspections.	Written Occupiers Notices.Prosecuted.	
Factories in which Sections,1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	21	8	-	-
Factories in which Section 7 is enforced.	43	15	1	-
Other Premises.	4	3	-	-
TOTAL :	68	26	1	-

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

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Premises	No. on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections, 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforces by Local Authorities.	21	8	-	-
Factories in which Section 7 is enforced.	43	15	1	-
Other Premises.	4	3	-	-
TOTAL :	68	26	1	-

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Number of Cases in which Defects were found.			Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted.
		Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	by H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness.	-	-	-	-	-
Closet Unsuitable or Defective	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL :	1	1	-	-	-

OUTWORK SECTION 110 & 111

There are no outworkers in the district.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Three Dealer's Licences were issued authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" and three licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised".

Twelve licences were issued authorising the use of the special designation "Sterilised".

Eight samples of milk were submitted for examination, all were classed as satisfactory.

ICE-CREAM.

There are 24 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream; all the ice-cream being pre-packed. The only loose ice-cream sold in the area is sold from vehicles.

There is no ice-cream manufactured in the area.

CONDEMNED FOOD.

Seven certificates were issued covering ten items of foodstuffs which were voluntarily surrendered by shopkeepers.

It was not found necessary to seize any diseased or unsound food.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are six licensed slaughterhouses one of which is only used occasionally for the slaughter of pigs. These slaughterhouses are conducted in a satisfactory manner.

KNACKER'S YARD.

There is one licensed knacker's yard which is satisfactory.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Prior to the 1st July Mr J.H.Poles, Meat Inspector, was responsible for the inspection of meat in the shops and slaughterhouses.

From the 1st July these responsibilities were transferred to the Council's Sanitary Inspector.

All carcasses at the slaughterhouses were inspected, but ante-mortem inspection is not always possible.

The following statistics are for the period 1st July to 31st December.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	129	1	1	271	482	-
Number inspected	129	1	1	271	482	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	23	-	-	1	17	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci.	17.83	-	-	0.37	3.73	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	4	-	-	-	3	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	3.87	-	-	-	0.62	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-

MEAT CONDEMNED.

Bovines.

1 whole carcase and offal (603 lbs), 2 heads and tongues, 2 livers
and 1 set of lungs all affected with tuberculosis. Total weight :-
694 lbs.
4 whole livers and portions of 12 livers with
distomatosis. 123 lbs.
1 liver with angiomata. 17 lbs.
3 livers with multiple abcesses. 49 lbs.
2 heads and tongues with actinomycosis. 51 lbs.
1 foreshin and portion of loin with bruising. 24 lbs.

Pigs.

3 heads and tongues with tuberculosis 64 lbs.
2 portions with bruising. 39 lbs.
14 livers with cirrhosis. 52 lbs.
1 liver with fibrosis. 4 lbs.
1 whole carcase and offal, osteomalicia with emaciation. 122 lbs.

Sheep.

1 part sheep liver with strongylus rufescens. 4 lbs.

